

Delaware Standardbred Breeders' Fund

Board Meeting

April 26, 2017

Delaware Standardbred Breeders' Fund Board
Department of Agriculture – Conference Room 2
Dover, Delaware

In Attendance:

Judy Davis-Wilson	Secretary M. Scuse
Mark Davis	Secretary R. Geisenberger
Garrett Bell	Matt Sparacino
John Hensley	Wayne Givens
Garnet O'Marrow	Dan Keeler
Andrew Markano	

Also attended: Sal DiMario

Andrew Kerber, Linda MacDonald and Senator Bruce Ennis were unable to attend.

Minutes: Donna Krol

CALL TO ORDER

At 1:05 P.M., Judy Davis-Wilson called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

WELCOME:

Judy Davis-Wilson introduced and welcomed Secretary of Finance Rick Geisenberger and Secretary of Agriculture Michael Scuse to the DSBF Board Meeting.

Mark Davis took over as chair of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mark Davis asked all in attendance if the minutes from 11-2-2016 that were e-mailed to them have been reviewed. No corrections were noted. Motion was made by Mark Davis to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was carried by Garnet O'Marrow and seconded by John Hensley. Motion was passed with unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Review of current financial status – document review and discussion:

Documents provided:

1. Financial Report as of April 26, 2017
2. 2012 to 2017 DSBF Purse Bonus Summary.

Discussion:

Judy Davis-Wilson provides a current financial status detailing the current balance and any incoming revenue for the DSBF at each meeting. Over the past several years the DSBF has been overspending. It is predicted, that at the current level (Purses and Bonuses) the DSBF Fund will be less than 1 million dollars by year 2020 and effectively out of money after that. The Board needs to discuss if they want to implement changes to prevent running out of money or wait until the fund is depleted.

Discussion points:

- Board would like to see actual projections for the coming year/s in a report.
- Reducing purses will give horsemen a reason to race elsewhere
- 4 Year Old Bonus has been addressed, will be discontinued in 2020.
- There is a continued reduction of horses each year. By 2018-2020 we should see a change. The reduction of horses will resolve the current issues.
- Doing anything right now would be premature.
- Projecting "doom & gloom" is premature, we should be very careful when discussing the DSBF – horseman think that the DSBF is cutting money from their program.
- Winbak has seen a reduction in breeding contracts for Delaware.

Dan Keeler discussed the need to bring people back to the sport of harness racing. If harness racing is not successful then breeding will not be successful. The dynamics of racing and betting (simulcast & digital) was discussed. These issues are experienced at all tracks, not just Delaware.

Secretary Scuse noted that there are no additional financial reserves to give the DSBF. The State of Delaware is in financial trouble as well as Delaware tracks. The Board needs to address this issue, be creative and come back with a proposal on how to keep the DSBF going. Secretary Scuse is looking for Sal DiMario and the DSOA to help as well. If we are responsible about the money the DSBF spends then the program will be okay, if not it will be out of money in three years.

Secretary Scuse will appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to research and find some ways to cut without touching the purses for eliminations and finals and keep the program running past 2020.

- 60 Day Rule submission:

This has been submitted to the Registrar of Regulations. At the next meeting the rule change can be adopted.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Supplemental payment for 2 and 3 year olds was brought to the Board by Andrew Markano. The DSBF rule is that you must make the March 15th payment on a two year old; if it is missed then the horse is out of the DSBF program. The supplemental payment would be for those who miss the March 15th payment. After discussion the board decided to table this issue until further notice.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Andrew Markano brought a color stallion brochure from Maryland for the board to see. Mr. Markano wants the DSBF to be able to produce a brochure like this for the Delaware stallions. This would be a great promotional item and a useful tool for those interested in breeding in Delaware. Judy noted that DE State regulations do not allow for color printing on information that can be made available online. Secretary Scuse would like to investigate pursuing this as a non-state entity, providing a grant for the cost of the brochure. Sal DiMario will provide a quote for the cost of production and printing.

CLOSE OF MEETING

- With no further business to discuss Mark Davis called for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Garnet O'Marrow and seconded by Andrew Markano. Motion was passed with unanimous voice vote. Meeting was adjourned at 2:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Krol and Judy Davis-Wilson